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MAXIMAL ORDER OF MULTIPOINT ITERATIONS  
USING  $n$  EVALUATIONS\*

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with multipoint iterations without memory for the solution of the nonlinear scalar equation  $f^{(m)}(x) = 0$ ,  $m \geq 0$ . Let  $p_n(m)$  be the maximal order of iterations which use  $n$  evaluations of the function or its derivatives per step. We prove the Kung and Traub conjecture  $p_n(0) = 2^{n-1}$  for Hermitian information. We show  $p_n(m+1) \geq p_n(m)$  and conjecture  $p_n(m) \equiv 2^{n-1}$ . The problem of the maximal order is connected with Birkhoff interpolation. Under a certain assumption we prove that the Pólya conditions are necessary for maximal order.

1. INTRODUCTION

We consider the problem of solving the nonlinear scalar equation  $f^{(m)}(x) = 0$  where  $m$  is a nonnegative integer. We solve this problem by multipoint iterations without memory which use  $n$  evaluations of the function or its derivatives per step. For fixed  $n$  we seek an iteration of maximal order of convergence. This problem is connected with Birkhoff interpolation and can be expressed in terms of the incidence matrix  $E_n^k = (e_{ij})$  where  $e_{ij} = 1$  if  $f^{(j)}(z_i)$  is computed and

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$e_{ij} = 0$  otherwise;  $z_i \neq z_j$ , and  $\sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} e_{ij} = n$ . (Note that the problem of Birkhoff interpolation has been open for 70 years, see Sharma [72].)

Let  $p_n^{(m)}$  be the maximal order of multipoint iterations. For  $m = 0$ , Kung and Traub showed that  $p_n^{(0)} \geq 2^{n-1}$ . We show that  $p_n^{(m+1)} \geq p_n^{(m)}$  and conjecture  $p_n^{(m)} = 2^{n-1}$ . For  $m = 0$  we prove the Kung and Traub conjecture for Hermitian information, i.e., if  $f^{(j)}(z_i)$  is computed, then  $f^{(0)}(z_i), \dots, f^{(j-1)}(z_i)$  are also computed. Under a certain assumption we prove that the Pólya conditions are necessary for the maximal order, i.e., the total number of  $f, f', \dots, f^{(j)}$  evaluations has to be at least  $j+1$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ . We show also that  $p_n^{(0)} \leq n(n+1)^{n-1}$ . Some special incidence matrices  $E_n^k$  are considered and maximal orders of iterations based on  $E_n^k$  are discussed.

## 2. THE $n$ -EVALUATION PROBLEM

We consider the problem of solving the nonlinear scalar equation

$$(2.1) \quad f^{(m)}(x) = 0$$

where  $f: D_F \subset \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$  denotes the one dimensional complex space and  $m$  is a nonnegative integer. We assume that there exists a simple zero  $\alpha$  of  $f^{(m)}$ ,  $f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0 \neq f^{(m+1)}(\alpha)$ , and that  $f$  is analytic in a neighborhood of  $\alpha$ . Let  $\mathfrak{F}$  denote a class of such functions.

We solve (2.1) by stationary iteration and assume that  $x_1$  is a sufficiently close approximation to  $\alpha$ . To get the next approximation  $x_2$  to  $\alpha$  we need some information on  $f$ . We assume that this information  $\mathfrak{N} = \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)$  is given by some

values of the function and its derivatives at the points  $z_i$  defined as follows. Let

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 &: f^{(j_1^1)}(z_1), \dots, f^{(j_{\mu_1}^k)}(z_1), \\ &\vdots \\ z_k &: f^{(j_1^k)}(z_k), \dots, f^{(j_{\mu_k}^k)}(z_k) \end{aligned}$$

denote points and numbers of derivatives which are computed where nonnegative integers  $\{j_\mu^i\}$  satisfy the relations

$$j_\mu^i < j_{\mu+1}^i \quad \text{for } i=1,2,\dots,k \text{ and } \mu=1,2,\dots,\mu_i-1,$$

$$\mu_1 + \mu_2 + \dots + \mu_k = n.$$

Furthermore,

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} z_1 &= x_1 \\ z_{i+1} &= z_{i+1}(z_1, \dots, z_i, f^{(j_1^1)}(z_1), \dots, f^{(j_{\mu_1}^1)}(z_1), \dots, \\ &\quad f^{(j_1^i)}(z_i), \dots, f^{(j_{\mu_i}^i)}(z_i)) \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k, \end{aligned}$$

$$z_i \neq z_j \quad \text{for } x_1 \neq \alpha \text{ and } i \neq j, \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, k,$$

$$x_2 = z_{k+1}.$$

This means that every  $z_{i+1}$  is the function of the previous information computed at  $z_1, \dots, z_i$  and the next approximation  $x_2 = z_{k+1}$  depends on  $n$  evaluations. Sometimes we shall use the notation  $z_i = z_i(x_1)$  or  $z_i = z_i(x_1, f)$  to stress the dependence on  $x_1$  and  $f$ .

To simplify further notations we define an incidence matrix  $E_n^k = (e_{ij})$  of the information  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  and  $j = 0, 1, \dots$ , as follows. Let

$$(2.3) \quad e_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if we compute } f^{(j)}(z_i) \\ 0 & \text{if we do not compute } f^{(j)}(z_i), \end{cases}$$

where

$$(2.4) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} e_{ij} > 0 \quad \text{for } i = 2, 3, \dots, k,$$

$$(2.5) \quad |E_n^k| = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} e_{ij} = n, \quad (\text{thus } k \leq n+1).$$

The condition (2.4) means that at every point  $z_i$ ,  $i \geq 2$ , we compute at least one derivative. (We consider  $f$  to be the zeroth derivative  $f^{(0)}$ .) However we do not, at this point, insist on any information being computed at  $z_1 = x_1$ . We show in Lemma 3.2 that  $f^{(m)}$  must be evaluated at  $x_1$ . The condition (2.5) means that we use exactly  $n$  evaluations. Let

$$(2.6) \quad e_n^k = \{(i, j) : e_{ij} = 1, i = 1, 2, \dots, k; j = 0, 1, \dots\}$$

Hence the information  $\mathfrak{N}$  can then be defined in terms of the incidence matrix  $E_n^k$  as follows:

$$(2.7) \quad \mathfrak{N} = \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f) = \{f^{(j)}(z_i) : (i, j) \in e_n^k\}.$$

The concept of an incidence matrix is used in Birkhoff interpolation, see Sharma [72]. We shall show some connections between the  $n$  evaluation problem and Birkhoff interpolation.

Having the information  $\mathfrak{N}$  we define the next approximation  $x_2$ ,  $x_2 = z_{k+1}$ , as  $x_2 = \varphi(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f))$  where  $\varphi$  is a given function.

We call  $\varphi$  an iteration function if for every  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$ , with  $f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that for any  $x_1$ ,  $|x_1 - \alpha| \leq \delta$ , the sequence

$$(2.8a) \quad x_{d+1} = \varphi(x_d; \mathfrak{N}(x_d; f)), \quad d = 1, 2, \dots$$

is well-defined and

$$(2.8b) \quad \lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} x_d = \alpha,$$

$$(2.8c) \quad \alpha = \varphi(\alpha, \mathfrak{N}(\alpha; f)).$$

Such iterations are called  $k$ -point iteration without memory since they use exactly  $n$  new evaluations at  $k$  distinct points. If  $k > 1$  they are called multipoint iterations (see Traub [61], [64], and Kung and Traub [74]). Let  $\Phi$  be a class of iterations  $\varphi$  with  $k \geq 1$ .

Since these iterations are stationary and without memory it is sufficient to define how  $x_2$  is generated from  $x_1$  and to measure the goodness of  $\varphi$  by examining some properties of  $x_2 - \alpha$  as  $x_1$  tends to  $\alpha$ .

We want to find an iteration for which  $x_2$  approximates  $\alpha$  as closely as possible, i.e., we seek an iteration with the maximal order. In a previous paper (Wozniakowski [75]) we proved that if a set of iterations  $\Phi$  is not empty then the maximal order of iteration is equal to the order of information. This gives us a powerful technique for proving maximal order. Let us briefly recall what we mean by orders of iteration and information.

We shall say  $\{\tilde{f}(\cdot; x_1)\}$  is equal to  $f$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{N}$  (briefly denoted by  $\tilde{f} \stackrel{\mathfrak{N}}{=} f$ ) iff

- (i)  $f, \tilde{f}(\cdot; x_1) \in \mathfrak{S}$ ,
- (ii)  $\tilde{f}^{(m)}(\tilde{\alpha}; x_1) = 0$  and  $f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0$  where  $\tilde{\alpha} = \tilde{\alpha}(x_1)$  and  $\lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \tilde{\alpha}(x_1) = \alpha$ ,

$$(iii) \quad \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \tilde{f}^{(j)}(\alpha; x_1) = g^{(j)}(\alpha) \text{ where } g(\alpha) = 0 \text{ and} \\ g \in \mathfrak{F}, j = 0, 1, \dots$$

$$(iv) \quad \mathfrak{N}(x_1; \tilde{f}) = \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f), \text{ i.e., } \tilde{f}^{(j)}(z_i; x_1) = f^{(j)}(z_i) \\ \text{for } (i, j) \in e_n^k.$$

The first three conditions mean that  $\tilde{f}(x; x_1)$  is sufficiently regular with respect to  $x$  and tends to a function  $g$ ,  $g \in \mathfrak{F}$ , as  $x_1$  tends to  $\alpha$ . The condition (iv) means that  $\tilde{f}$  and  $f$  have the same information  $\mathfrak{N}$  at the point  $x_1$ . Therefore any iteration  $\varphi$  will produce the same approximation  $x_2$  for  $\tilde{f}$  and  $f$ ,  $\varphi(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; \tilde{f})) \equiv \varphi(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f))$ . Since we cannot recognize  $\tilde{f}$  from  $f$  using information (2.7), we should approximate not only the zero  $\alpha$  of  $f$ , but at the same time, the zero  $\tilde{\alpha}$  of  $\tilde{f}$ . This leads us to the following definitions of orders of iteration and information.

Let  $A$  be a set defined by

$$A = \{q \geq 1; \forall f \in \mathfrak{F}, f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0, \forall \tilde{f} \stackrel{\mathfrak{N}}{\approx} f, \limsup_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \frac{|x_2 - \tilde{\alpha}|}{|x_1 - \alpha|^{q-\epsilon}} = 0, \forall \epsilon > 0\}$$

A number  $p = p(\varphi)$  is called an order of the iteration  $\varphi$  iff

$$(2.9) \quad p(\varphi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } A \text{ is empty,} \\ \sup A & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Using this convention  $p(\varphi)$  always exists; however the only interesting cases are for  $A \neq \emptyset$ . Furthermore, let

$$B = \{q \geq 1; \forall f \in \mathfrak{F}, f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0, \forall \tilde{f} \stackrel{\mathfrak{N}}{\approx} f, \limsup_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \frac{|\alpha - \tilde{\alpha}|}{|x_1 - \alpha|^{q-\epsilon}} = 0, \forall \epsilon > 0\}.$$

A number  $p = p(\mathfrak{N})$  (sometimes denoted  $p = p(E_n^k)$ ) is called an order of the information  $\mathfrak{N}$  if

$$(2.10) \quad p(\mathfrak{M}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } B \text{ is empty,} \\ \sup B & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We know that if  $\Phi \neq \emptyset$  then

$$(2.11) \quad \sup_{\varphi \in \Phi} p(\varphi) = p(\mathfrak{M})$$

and  $p(\mathfrak{M}) = p(I_{\mathfrak{M}})$  where  $I_{\mathfrak{M}}$  is a generalized interpolatory method. (See Wozniakowski [75].)

We are now in a position to define the  $n$ -evaluation problem (see Kung and Traub [73] and [74]). For fixed  $n$  and  $m$  we wish to find a number  $k = k(n, m)$ , points  $z_i = z_i(x_1)$  for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, k$ , an incidence matrix  $E_n^k$ ,  $|E_n^k| = n$ , and an iteration  $\varphi$  which uses  $E_n^k$  (see (2.8)) such that  $p(\varphi)$  is maximal. Due to (2.11) this is equivalent to maximizing the order of information  $\mathfrak{M}$ , i.e., to find  $E_n^{*k}$  such that

$$(2.12) \quad p_n(m) = \sup_{E_n^k} p(E_n^k),$$

$$(2.13) \quad p(E_n^{*k}) = p_n(m).$$

We recall the Kung and Traub conjecture for  $m = 0$  (Kung and Traub [74]):

$$(2.14) \quad p_n(0) = 2^{n-1}.$$

They showed two different matrices  $E_n^k$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , for which the order of iteration is equal to  $2^{n-1}$  (see Section 3), so we know that

$$(2.15) \quad p_n(0) \geq 2^{n-1}.$$

We now show a relationship among the  $p_n(m)$  for different  $m$ .

Lemma 2.1

Let  $\varphi = \varphi(\mathfrak{N})$  be an iteration of order  $p$  for the problem  $f^{(m)}(x) = 0$  which uses  $n$  evaluations per step. Then there exists an iteration  $\varphi^* = \varphi^*(\mathfrak{N}^*)$  for the problem  $f^{(m+1)}(x) = 0$  which also uses  $n$  evaluations and has the same order  $p$ .

Proof

Let  $E_n^k = (e_{ij})$  be the incidence matrix of  $\mathfrak{N}$  and  $E_n^{*k} = (e_{ij}^*)$  be defined by

$$e_{ij}^* = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } e_{i,j-1} = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let  $\mathfrak{N}^*$  be information with the incidence matrix  $E_n^{*k}$  based on the points  $z_i = z_i(x_1)$ ,  $i = 2, \dots, k$ , from  $\mathfrak{N}$ . For any  $f_1$  from  $\mathfrak{S}$ ,  $f_1^{(m+1)}(\alpha) = 0 \neq f_1^{(m+2)}(\alpha)$ , define

$$f(x) = f_1'(x).$$

Thus,  $f \in \mathfrak{A}$ ,  $f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0 \neq f^{(m+1)}(\alpha)$ , and  $f^{(j)}(x) \equiv f_1^{(j+1)}(x)$ .

Hence

$$\mathfrak{N}^*(x_1; f_1) = \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f).$$

Let us define  $\varphi^*$  by

$$\varphi^*(x_1; \mathfrak{N}^*(x_1; f_1)) = \varphi(x_1, \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)).$$

Since  $f_1$  is arbitrary it easily follows that  $p(\varphi^*) = p(\varphi)$ . ■

From Lemma 2.1 and (2.15) we immediately get

Corollary 2.2

$$p_n(m) \geq p_n(m-1) \geq 2^{n-1} \text{ for any } m \geq 1. \quad \blacksquare$$

Although Corollary 2.2 states that  $p_n(m)$  is at least  $p_n(m-1)$  we propose

Conjecture 2.3

$$p_n^{(m)} = 2^{n-1} \quad \forall m \geq 0, n \geq 1. \quad \blacksquare$$

3. EXISTENCE OF ITERATIONS

Recall that  $\Phi$  is a class of iterations defined by (2.8). In this section we show what we have to assume on the information  $\mathfrak{N}$  to be sure that  $\Phi$  is not empty. We shall prove that  $\Phi = \emptyset$  if any of the following three conditions hold:

- (1) If  $z_i(x_1)$  does not converge to  $\alpha$ .
- (2) If we do not compute  $f^{(m)}(x_1)$ , i.e.,  $e_{1m} = 0$ .
- (3) If  $n = 1$  under the assumption on sufficiently regularity of  $\varphi$  as a function of  $x_1$ .

We prove this in the following Lemmas.

Lemma 3.1

Let  $\varphi$  be an iteration which uses the information  $\mathfrak{N}$ . Then for any  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$ ,  $f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0$ ,

$$\lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} z_i(x_1; f) = \alpha \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k+1.$$

Proof

Suppose on the contrary that there exist  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$ ,  $f(\alpha) = 0$ , an index  $i$ ,  $2 \leq i \leq k$ , a number  $\epsilon > 0$  and a sequence  $\{x_j\}$  such that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} x_j = \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad |z_i(x_j) - \alpha| \geq \epsilon \quad \text{for } j \geq j_0.$$

Let  $J = \{x: |x - \alpha| < \epsilon\}$ . Define  $f_1: J \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f_1(x) = f(x)$  for  $x \in J$ . Since  $f_1 \in \mathfrak{F}$  there exists  $\delta_1 > 0$  such that any  $x_1$ ,  $|x_1 - \alpha| \leq \delta_1$  is a good initial approximation.

Setting  $x_1 = x_j$ , for large  $j$ , where  $|x_j - \alpha| \leq \delta_1$ , we get  $z_i(x_j) \notin J$  and  $\mathfrak{N}(x_1; f_1)$  is not well defined which contradicts (2.8a). ■

Lemma 3.2

Let  $\mathfrak{N}$  be any information with the incidence matrix  $E_n^k$ . If  $\Phi \neq \emptyset$  then  $e_{1m} = 1$ , (i.e. we have to compute  $f^{(m)}(x_1)$ ).

Compare Theorem 4.1 in Kung and Traub [73] which proves this result for  $m = 0$ .

Proof

Let  $\varphi \in \Phi$  and suppose on the contrary that  $e_{1m} = 0$ . Let  $f$  be any function from  $\mathfrak{F}$ ,  $f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0$ . Let  $x_1$  be sufficiently close approximations to  $\alpha$ ,  $x_1 \neq \alpha$ . From (2.2) we get  $\delta = \min_{2 \leq i \leq k} |z_i(x_1) - x_1| > 0$ .

Define

$$f_1(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) - \frac{f^{(m)}(x_1)}{m!} (x-x_1)^m & \text{for } |x-x_1| < \delta \\ f(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Note that  $f_1 \in \mathfrak{F}$ ,  $f_1^{(m)}(x_1) = 0$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} f_1^{(j)}(x_1) &= f^{(j)}(x_1) & \text{for } j \neq m \\ f_1^{(j)}(z_i) &= f^{(j)}(z_i) & \text{for any } j \text{ and } i = 2, \dots, k. \end{aligned}$$

Since we do not compute  $f^{(m)}(x_1)$  then

$$\mathfrak{N}(x_1; f_1) = \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f).$$

But  $x_1$  is the zero of  $f_1$  and due to (2.8c) it follows

$$x_2 = \varphi(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) = \varphi(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f_1)) = x_1.$$

Thus,  $x_d \equiv x_1$  and  $\lim_d x_d \neq \alpha$  which contradicts (2.8b). ■

An iteration function  $\varphi$  can be treated as a function of  $x$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(x; \mathfrak{N}(x; f))$  for  $x$  close to  $\alpha$ . We shall prove that if  $\varphi$  is sufficiently regular then the number of evaluations  $n$  has to be at least two.

### Lemma 3.3

If an iteration  $\varphi$  is a sufficiently smooth function of  $x$  then  $n \geq 2$ .

### Proof

It is enough to prove Lemma 3.3 for the real case. Assume on the contrary that  $n = 1$ . From Lemma 3.2 it follows that this unique piece of information is given by  $f^{(m)}(x_1)$ . Let

$$\varphi(x; f^{(m)}(x)) = x + g(x, f^{(m)}(x)).$$

From (2.8b) it follows

$$g(\alpha, 0) = 0 \quad \forall \alpha \text{ such that } f^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0, f \in \mathfrak{F}$$

From this and the regularity of  $\varphi$  we can express  $g(x, y)$

$$g(x, y) = y^k h(x, y)$$

for an integer  $k \geq 1$  where  $h(x, 0) \neq 0$  and  $h(x) = h(x, f(x))$  is a continuous function for  $x$  close to  $\alpha$ .

Let  $h(\alpha) \neq 0$  and for simplicity we assume that  $h(\alpha) > 0$ . (If  $h(\alpha) < 0$  then the proof is analogous.) Let  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$  be a polynomial of degree  $m+1$  and  $f^{(m+1)}(x) \equiv 1$ ,  $f(\alpha) = 0$ . There exists  $\delta = \delta(f) > 0$  such that for any  $x_1$ ,  $|x_1 - \alpha| \leq \delta$  the sequence  $x_{d+1} = \varphi(x_d, f^{(m)}(x_d)) = x_d + \left[ f^{(m)}(x_d) \right]^k h(x_d)$  is well defined for any  $d$  and converges to  $\alpha$  (see (2.8)). For

$e_d = x_d - \alpha$  we get

$$(3.2) \quad e_{d+1} = [1 + e_d^{k-1} h(x_d)] e_d.$$

If  $x_1$  is close but different from  $\alpha$  then  $e_d \neq 0$  for any  $d$ . Since  $\lim e_d = 0$  then for any  $d_1$  there exists  $d \geq d_1$  such that  $|e_{d+1}|^d < |e_d|$ , i.e.

$$(3.3) \quad |1 + e_d^{k-1} h(x_d)| < 1.$$

We consider two cases.

Case I. Let  $k$  be odd. Then for large  $d$  we have

$$e_d^{k-1} h(x_d) \cong e_d^{k-1} h(\alpha) > 0$$

which contradicts (3.3).

Case II. Let  $k$  be even. We prove that  $h$  does not change sign for  $x \in [\alpha - \delta, \alpha + \delta]$ . If so, then by the continuity of  $h$  there exists  $x^*$  such that  $h(x^*) = 0$  and  $0 < |x^* - \alpha| < \delta$ . Setting  $x_1 = x^*$  we get  $x_d \equiv x^*$  which contradicts (3.3). Thus  $h(x) \geq h_0 > 0$  for  $|x - \alpha| \leq \delta$ . Define  $f_1: [\alpha - \delta, \alpha + \delta] \rightarrow \mathfrak{R}$  such that  $f_1(x) = f(x)$ . Since  $f_1$  also belongs to  $\mathfrak{F}$ ,  $f_1^{(m)}(\alpha) = 0$ , there exists  $\delta_1 > 0$  such that  $x_{d+1} = \varphi(x_d; \mathfrak{N}(x_d; f_1))$  is well defined whenever  $|x_1 - \alpha| \leq \delta_1$ . Let  $x_1 > \alpha$ . Keeping in mind that  $\mathfrak{N}(x_d; f_1) \equiv \mathfrak{N}(x_d; f)$ , from (3.2) we get

$$e_{d+1} \geq (1 + e_d^{k-1} h_0) e_d \geq (1 + e_1^{k-1} h_0)^d e_1.$$

Hence, there exists an index  $d$  such that  $e_{d+1} > \delta$ , and since  $f_1(x_{d+1})$  is not defined we get a contradiction with (2.8a). ■

#### 4. HERMITIAN INFORMATION

In this section we deal with a special case of the  $n$ -evaluation problem when the information  $\mathfrak{M}$  is hermitian.

##### Definition 4.1

$\mathfrak{M}$  is called hermitian information if the incidence matrix  $E_n^k$  (which is now called hermitian) satisfies

$$e_{ij} = 1 \Rightarrow e_{i0} = e_{i1} = \dots = e_{i,j-1} = 1 \quad \forall (i,j) \in e_n^k \quad \blacksquare$$

This means that if  $f^{(j)}(z_i)$  is computed then  $f^{(0)}(z_i), \dots, f^{(j-1)}(z_i)$  are also computed.

Let  $s_i$  denote the number of evaluations at  $z_i$ , i.e.,  $e_{i,s_i-1} = 1$  and  $e_{i,s_i} = 0$ . Then

$$(4.1) \quad s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_k = n \text{ where } s_i \geq 1 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

For given  $n$  and  $k$  we want to find  $s_i$  and  $z_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , to maximize the order of information. Let  $p_n(m, H)$  be the maximal order of hermitian information. Note that  $p_n(m) \geq p_n(m, H)$ .

First we shall discuss a property of hermitian informations for the problem  $f(x) = 0$ , i.e.,  $m = 0$ .

##### Theorem 4.1 ( $m = 0$ )

The order  $p(E_n^k)$  of the hermitian information  $\mathfrak{M}$  with the incidence matrix  $E_n^k$  satisfies

$$(4.2) \quad p(E_n^k) \leq s_1 \prod_{i=2}^k (s_i + 1). \quad \blacksquare$$

##### Proof

It is easy to verify that if  $\tilde{f} \stackrel{\mathfrak{M}}{=} f$  then

$$(4.3) \quad \tilde{f}(x; x_1) = f(x) + G(x; x_1) \prod_{i=1}^k (x-z_i)^{s_i}$$

for an analytic function  $G$ . Since  $\tilde{f}'(\alpha; x_1)$  tends to  $g'(\alpha) \neq 0$  then setting  $x = \alpha$  in (4.3) we get

$$(4.4) \quad (\alpha - \tilde{\alpha}) = \frac{G(\alpha; x_1)}{g'(\alpha)} (1 + o(1)) \prod_{i=1}^k (\alpha - z_i)^{s_i}.$$

Define  $q_i$  by

$$\frac{\alpha - z_i}{e_1^{q_i - \epsilon}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\alpha - z_i}{e_1^{q_i + \epsilon}} \rightarrow +\infty, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0$$

where  $e_1 \equiv x_1 - \alpha$ . Since  $z_i = z_i(x_1)$  tends to  $\alpha$  (see Lemma 3.1) then  $q_i$  exists and  $q_i \geq 0$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Note that  $q_1 = 1$ .

Let  $p_1 = q_1 = 1$  and

$$(4.5) \quad p_{j+1} = \sum_{i=1}^j q_i s_i, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

From (4.4) we get

$$(4.6) \quad \frac{\alpha - \tilde{\alpha}}{e_1^{p_{k+1} - \epsilon}} = \frac{G(\alpha; x_1)}{g'(\alpha)} (1 + o(1)) \prod_{i=1}^k \left\{ \frac{\alpha - z_i}{e_1^{q_i - \delta}} \right\}^{s_i} \rightarrow 0, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0,$$

where  $\delta = \epsilon/n$ . For  $G(\alpha; x_1) \equiv \text{const} \neq 0$  we get

$$(4.7) \quad \frac{\alpha - \tilde{\alpha}}{e_1^{p_{k+1} + \epsilon}} \rightarrow \infty, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0.$$

Now we shall prove that there exists a function  $f$  such that

$$(4.8) \quad q_i \leq p_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k.$$

Let  $f$  be any function such that  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$ ,  $f(\alpha) = 0$  and  $f^{(j)}(\alpha) \neq 0$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Since  $p_1 = q_1$ , the condition (4.8) holds for  $i = 1$ . Assume by induction that this holds for  $i \leq j$ . Suppose by the contrary that

$$q_{j+1} > p_{j+1} = \sum_{i=1}^j q_i s_i.$$

Define

$$r = \sum_{i=1}^j s_i.$$

Case I. Let  $r = 1$ . This means that  $j = 1$ ,  $s_1 = 1$  and  $z_2 = z_2(x_1, f(x_1))$  approximates  $\alpha$  with order greater than  $p_2 = 1$ .

Define

$$(4.9) \quad h(x_1, f(x_1)) = \frac{x_1 - f(x_1) - z_2}{z_2 - x_1} + 1.$$

It is easy to verify that

$$h(x_1, f(x_1)) = f'(\alpha)(1 + o(1)).$$

Case II. Let  $r > 1$  and  $\tilde{f}$  be the Hermite interpolatory polynomial of degree less than  $r$  defined by

$$\tilde{f}^{(l)}(z_i) = f^{(l)}(z_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, j; \quad l = 0, 1, \dots, s_i - 1.$$

Let  $\tilde{\alpha}$  be the nearest zero of  $\tilde{f}$  to  $z_1 = x_1$ . Then

$$(4.10) \quad \frac{\tilde{\alpha} - \alpha}{\prod_{i=1}^j (\alpha - z_i)^{s_i}} f'(\alpha) = \frac{f^{(r)}(\alpha)}{r!} (1 + o(1)).$$

Note that  $\tilde{\alpha}$  is a function of  $x_1$  and information  $\mathfrak{N}(x_1; f) = \{f^{(l)}(z_i): i = 1, 2, \dots, j; l = 0, 1, \dots, s_i - 1\}$ . Recall that  $z_{j+1} = z_{j+1}(x_1, \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f))$  and  $z_{j+1} - \alpha = o(e_1^{j+1})$ . Define

$$(4.11) \quad h(x_1, \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) = \frac{\tilde{\alpha} - z_{j+1}}{\prod_{i=1}^j (z_{j+1} - z_i)^{s_i}} \tilde{f}'(z_{j+1}).$$

Thus  $h$  is the lefthand side of (4.10) where  $\alpha$  is replaced by  $z_{j+1}$ . Since  $z_{j+1}$  is a better approximation to  $\alpha$  than  $\tilde{\alpha}$ , it is straightforward to verify that

$$(4.12) \quad h(x_1, \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) = \frac{f^{(r)}(\alpha)}{r!} (1 + o(1)).$$

This means that in both cases using  $r$  evaluations of the function and its derivatives given by  $\mathfrak{N}$  we can approximate the  $r$ th normalized derivative. We prove that this is impossible.

Note that  $h$  (see (4.9) or (4.11)) is a continuous function of  $x_1$  at  $x_1 = \alpha$  and

$$(4.13) \quad h(\alpha, \mathfrak{N}(\alpha; f)) = \frac{f^{(r)}(\alpha)}{r!}.$$

Let  $f_1(x) = f(x) + (x - \alpha)^r$  and let us apply  $h$  to the function  $f_1$ . Thus

$$h(\alpha, \mathfrak{N}(\alpha; f)) = h(\alpha, \mathfrak{N}(\alpha; f_1)) = \frac{f^{(r)}(\alpha)}{r!} + 1$$

which contradicts (4.13).

Hence  $q_{j+1} \leq p_{j+1}$  which proves (4.8). Keeping in mind  $p(E_n^k) = p_{k+1}$  and using (4.5), (4.8) we get

$$\begin{aligned} p(E_n^k) &= \sum_{i=1}^k q_i s_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k p_i s_i = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i s_i + p_k s_k \leq (1+s_k) \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i s_i \\ &\leq s_1 \prod_{i=2}^k (s_i + 1) \end{aligned}$$

which proves Theorem 4.1. ■

We want to show that a bound in (4.2) is sharp, i.e., there exist points  $z_2, \dots, z_k$  such that the order of information is equal to  $s_1 \prod_{i=1}^k (s_i + 1)$ .

Let  $w_\mu$ ,  $\mu = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , be the Hermite interpolatory polynomial of degree less than  $r_\mu = s_1 + s_2 + \dots + s_\mu$  defined by

$$(4.14) \quad w_\mu^{(j)}(z_i) = f^{(j)}(z_i), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, \mu; \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, s_i - 1.$$

Let  $\alpha_\mu$  be the nearest zero of  $w_\mu$  to  $z_1 = x_1$ . (If  $s_1 = 1$  then  $\alpha_1 = x_1 - \beta f(x_1)$  for any nonzero constant  $\beta$ .)

Define  $z_{\mu+1}$  as a point such that

$$(4.15) \quad z_{\mu+1} = \alpha_\mu + O(e_1^\beta), \quad \beta_\mu \geq s_1 \prod_{i=2}^{\mu} (s_i + 1).$$

From (4.14) it follows

$$(4.16) \quad \alpha_\mu - \alpha = \begin{cases} (\beta f'(\alpha) - 1)(\alpha - z_1) + o(\alpha - z_1) & r_\mu = 1 \\ \frac{f^{(r_\mu)}(\alpha)}{r_\mu! f^{(r_\mu)}(\alpha)} \prod_{i=1}^{\mu} (\alpha - z_i)^{s_i} + o\left(\prod_{i=1}^{\mu} (\alpha - z_i)^{s_i}\right) & \text{if } r_\mu > 1. \end{cases}$$

From (4.15) we get

$$(4.17) \quad z_{\mu+1} - \alpha = O(e_1^{q_{\mu+1}}), \quad q_{\mu+1} = s_1 \prod_{i=2}^{\mu} (s_i + 1),$$

which proves that the order of information  $\mathfrak{N}$  based on the points  $z_{\mu+1}$  from (4.15) is equal to  $s_1 \prod_{i=2}^k (s_i + 1)$ .

An iteration which uses this information  $\mathfrak{N}$  and has the maximal order can be defined as follows.

For  $\mu = 1, 2, \dots, k$

- (i) construct  $w_{\mu}$  from (4.14) using a divided-difference algorithm,
- (ii) apply Newton iteration to the equation  $w_{\mu}(x) = 0$  setting

$$\begin{aligned} y_0 &= z_{\mu} \\ y_{i+1} &= y_i - w'_{\mu}(y_i)^{-1} w_{\mu}(y_i), \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, i_0 - 1, \\ z_{\mu+1} &= y_{i_0} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(4.18) \quad i_0 = \lceil \log_2(s_{\mu+1} + 1) \rceil.$$

(If  $s_1 = 1$  then  $z_2 = x_1 - \beta f(x_1)$ .)

Then (4.15) holds and

$$(4.19) \quad z_{k+1} - \alpha = O(e_1^{q_{k+1}}), \quad q_{k+1} = s_1 \prod_{i=2}^k (s_i + 1).$$

Furthermore if  $\beta_{\mu} > q_{\mu+1}$  in (4.15) then we can specify the constant which appears in the "O" notation in (4.19). Note that  $\beta_{\mu} > q_{\mu+1}$  if we redefine  $i_0$  in (4.18) as the smallest integer such that  $i_0 > \log_2(s_{\mu+1} + 1)$ .

Lemma 4.2

Let  $\varphi$  be the iteration defined as above,  $z_{k+1} = \varphi(x_1, \mathfrak{M}(x_1; f))$ . If  $\beta_\mu > q_{\mu+1}$  for  $\mu = 1, 2, \dots, k$  then

$$(4.20) \quad \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \frac{z_{k+1}(x_1) - \alpha}{(x_1 - \alpha)^{q_{k+1}}} = C_{k+1}$$

where

$$C_{\mu+1} = M_{r_\mu} \prod_{j=1}^{\mu-1} M_{r_j}^{s_{j+1}(s_{j+2}+1)\dots(s_\mu+1)} \quad \text{for } \mu = 1, 2, \dots, k$$

and

$$M_i = \begin{cases} (-1)^i \frac{f^{(i)}(\alpha)}{i! f'(\alpha)} & \text{if } i > 1 \\ -\beta f'(\alpha) + 1 & \text{if } i = 1. \end{cases}$$

If

$$(4.21) \quad \underline{K}^{i-1} \leq \left| \frac{f^{(i)}(\alpha)}{i! f'(\alpha)} \right| \leq \bar{K}^{i-1} \quad \text{for } i = r_1, r_2, \dots, r_k$$

then

$$(4.22) \quad c \cdot \underline{K}^{q_{k+1}-1} \leq \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \left| \frac{z_{k+1}(x_1) - \alpha}{(x_1 - \alpha)^{q_{k+1}}} \right| \leq \bar{K}^{q_{k+1}-1} \cdot c$$

where

$$c = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r_1 > 1 \\ |M_1|^{s_2(s_3+1)\dots(s_k+1)} & \text{if } r_1 = 1 \text{ and } k \geq 2 \\ |M_1| & \text{if } r_1 = 1 \text{ and } k = 1 \end{cases} \quad \blacksquare$$

Note that the righthand side of (4.21) follows from the analyticity of  $f$ .

Proof

Let  $C_i = \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} (z_i - \alpha) / (x_1 - \alpha)^{q_i}$ . Note that  $C_1 = 1$ . From (4.15), (4.16) and since  $\beta_\mu > q_{\mu+1}$  we get

$$z_{\mu+1}^{-\alpha} = \alpha_\mu^{-\alpha} + z_{\mu+1}^{-\alpha} = M_{r_\mu} \prod_{i=1}^{\mu} (z_i - \alpha)^{s_i} + o(e_1^{q_{\mu+1}}).$$

Thus

$$(4.23) \quad C_{\mu+1} = M_{r_\mu} \prod_{i=1}^{\mu} C_i^{s_i}.$$

Since  $C_1 = 1$  we get after some tedious calculations

$$C_{\mu+1} = M_{r_\mu} \prod_{j=1}^{\mu-1} M_{r_j}^{s_{i+1}(s_{i+2}+1)\dots(s_\mu+1)}$$

which proves the first part of Lemma 4.2.

Let  $r_1 > 1$ . Assume by induction that  $\underline{K}^{q_i-1} \leq |C_i| \leq \bar{K}^{q_i-1}$ . This is true for  $i = 1$  since  $C_1 = q_1 = 1$ . From (4.23) and (4.21) we have

$$|C_{\mu+1}| \leq \bar{K}^{r_\mu-1 + s_1(q_1-1) + \dots + s_\mu(q_\mu-1)} = \bar{K}^{q_{\mu+1}-1}$$

and similarly we get a lower bound.

Let  $r_1 = 1$ . Assume by induction that  $\underline{K}^{q_i-1} \leq |C_i| \leq \bar{K}^{q_i-1}$  where  $c_1 = 1$ ,  $c_2 = |M_1|$  and  $c_i = |M_1|^{s_2(s_3+1)\dots(s_{i-1}+1)}$  for  $i \geq 3$ . This is true for  $i = 1$  and 2 since  $C_1 = q_1 = q_2 = 1$  and  $C_2 = M_{r_1}$ . Then

$$|C_{\mu+1}| \leq \bar{K}^{q_{\mu+1}-1} |M_1|^{s_2+s_2s_3+s_4s_2(s_3+1)\dots s_\mu s_2(s_3+1)\dots(s_{\mu-1}+1)} = \bar{K}^{q_{\mu+1}-1} c_{\mu+1}$$

and similarly we get a lower bound. Hence (4.22) holds which

completes the proof. ■

Lemma 4.2 in the case  $r_1 > 1$  states that the asymptotic constant  $C_{k+1}$  depends exponentially on the order  $q_{k+1}$ . This property makes an analysis of the complexity of iteration easier (Traub and Wozniakowski will analyze it in a future paper).

We are now in a position to answer the following question. For given  $n$  and  $k$ ,  $k \leq n$ , find nonnegative integers  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k$  to maximize the order of information

$$p_k = \max_{s_1 + \dots + s_k = n} s_1 \prod_{i=2}^k (s_i + 1). \text{ Using a standard technique}$$

it is easy to verify that

$$(4.24) \quad \left( n + (k-1) \left\lfloor \frac{n-1}{k} \right\rfloor \right) \left( 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{n-1}{k} \right\rfloor \right)^{k-1} \leq p_k \leq \left( \frac{n+k-1}{k} \right)^k < 2^{n-1}$$

for  $k \leq n-2$  and  $p_k = 2^{n-1}$  for  $k = n-1$  or  $n$ . If  $k$  is a divisor of  $n-1$  then the optimal  $s_i$  are given by

$$s_1 = 1 + \frac{n-1}{k} \text{ and } s_i = \frac{n-1}{k} \text{ for } i = 2, \dots, k.$$

For  $k = n$  the optimal  $s_i \equiv 1$ . Furthermore from Theorem 7.1 in Kung and Traub [74] it follows that there are exactly two cases which maximize the order of information,

$$\begin{array}{ll} k = n-1, s_1 = 2, s_i = 1 & \text{for } i = 2, \dots, n, p_{n-1} = 2^{n-1} \\ k = n, s_i = 1 & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n, p_n = 2^{n-1}. \end{array}$$

The first case means that we use  $f$  and  $f'$  at the first point and  $f$  at the other points. The second case states that we use  $n$  function evaluations. From Theorem 4.1 and (4.24) we get

### Corollary 4.3

The Kung and Traub conjecture holds for hermitian information ( $p_n(0, H) = 2^{n-1}$ ). ■

The next part of this section deals with the general problem  $f^{(m)}(x) = 0$ ,  $m \geq 1$ . It seems to us that hermitian information is not always relevant for that problem especially for large  $m$ . Note that we have to compute  $f^{(m)}(x_1)$  and if the information is hermitian then we have to assume  $n \geq m+1$ . On the other hand if we use  $f^{(m)}(z_1), \dots, f^{(m)}(z_n)$  (which is nonhermitian) then the order of information is  $2^{n-1}$ . However it is interesting to know the optimal order of information for special hermitian cases, e.g.,  $f, f'$  at  $z_1$  followed by  $n-1$  function evaluation at the other points for the problem  $f'(x) = 0$ , (see Lemma 4.5).

Recall that  $p_n(m, H)$  denotes the maximal order of hermitian information. In general we do not know  $p_n(m, H)$ . We only show some bounds on it.

### Lemma 4.4

$$p_n(m, H) \leq 2^{n-1}.$$

### Proof

If  $\tilde{f} \stackrel{\approx}{\approx} f$  then

$$(4.25) \quad \tilde{f}^{(m)}(x) - f^{(m)}(x) = [G(x) \prod_{i=1}^k (x-z_i)^{s_i}]^{(m)}$$

for an analytic function  $G$ . Let  $G(x) = \frac{1}{m!}(x-\alpha)^m$ . Since  $\tilde{f}^{(m+1)}(\alpha)$  tends to  $g^{(m+1)}(\alpha) \neq 0$  as  $x_1$  tends to  $\alpha$  then setting  $x = \alpha$  in (4.25) we have

$$\tilde{f} - \alpha = c(\alpha, x_1) \prod_{i=1}^k (\alpha - z_i)^{s_i}$$

where  $c(\alpha, x_1)$  tends to a nonzero limit (see (4.4)).

The proof of Lemma 4.4 may now be obtained analogously to the proof of Theorem 4.1.

Lemma 4.5

Let  $n \geq m+1 \geq 2$ . Then

$$p_n(m, H) \geq c q(m)^{n-1}$$

where

$$c = c(m) = \frac{2}{(1+2m+\sqrt{t})}, \quad q(m) = \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{t}}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{m}}$$

and  $t = 1 + 4m$ .

Proof

Define  $s_1 = m+1$  and  $s_i = m$  for  $i = 2, \dots, k$ . Let  $z_2 = x_1 + \beta f^{(m)}(x_1)$  for  $\beta \neq 0$  and let  $z_\mu$ ,  $\mu \geq 3$ , be the nearest zero to  $z_{\mu-1}$  of the polynomial  $w_\mu^{(m)}$  where

$$\begin{aligned} w_\mu^{(j)}(z_i) &= f^{(j)}(z_i), & i &= 1, 2, \dots, \mu-1; \\ & & j &= 0, 1, \dots, m-1, \\ w_\mu^{(m)}(z_1) &= f^{(m)}(z_1) \end{aligned}$$

and  $w_\mu$  is of degree  $\leq (\mu-1)m$ . It is straightforward to verify that

$$z_\mu - \alpha = O((x_1 - \alpha)^{q_\mu})$$

where  $q_1 = q_2 = 1$  and for  $\mu \geq 3$ ,

$$q_\mu = m(q_1 + \dots + q_{\mu-2}) + q_1 = q_{\mu-1} + mq_{\mu-2}.$$

It is easy to verify that

$$q_{k+1} \geq c \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{t}}{2}\right)^{k+1}$$

where  $c = c(m) = 2/(1 + 2m + \sqrt{t})$ .

For a given  $n$  let  $k = \lfloor (n-1)/m \rfloor = \frac{n-1}{m} + \theta$  where  $-1 < \theta \leq 0$ . The total number of evaluation is equal to  $km + 1 \leq n$ . Hence  $p_n^{(m,H)} \geq p_{km+1}^{(m,H)} \geq q_{k+1} \geq q_{k+1} \geq c q^{(m)^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{t}}{2}\right)^{1+\theta} \geq c q^{(m)^{n-1}}$  which proves Lemma 4.5. ■

Lemma 4.4 and 4.5 state that  $p_n^{(m,H)}$  as a function of  $n$  is exponentially bounded from below and above. However  $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} q^{(m)} = 1$ .

## 5. GENERAL INFORMATION, $m = 0$

We deal with the  $n$ -evaluation problem for  $m = 0$ . For small  $n$  it is possible to verify the Kung and Traub conjecture and to characterize the information sets for all iterations which have maximal order.

For  $n = 1$  the unique piece of information is given by  $f(x_1)$ . Since  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) + (x-x_1)$  has the same information as  $f$  then  $p_1(0) = 1$ . This means that for any  $y = y(x_1, f(x_1))$  the distance  $\alpha$ - $y$  can be at most of first order in  $\alpha$ - $x_1$ . However  $y$  is not, in general, an iteration function, see Lemma 3.3. Note also that for any  $m$ ,  $p_1(m) = 1$ .

For  $n = 2$ , Kung and Traub [73] proved that the maximal order of iteration equals two under a certain assumption on the iterations considered. Using our technique we find the order of information for any  $\mathfrak{N}$  with  $n = 2$ . Note that if  $\mathfrak{N}$  is hermitian information then  $p(\mathfrak{N}) \leq 2$ , by Corollary 4.3. Thus it suffices to consider the non-hermitian case. Let us first consider one-point iterations, i.e.,  $k = 1$  and  $\mathfrak{N} = \{f(x_1), f^{(j)}(x_1)\}$  for  $j \geq 2$ . Then  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) + (x-x_1)$  and  $p(\mathfrak{N}) = 1$ . Let us pass to two-point iterations, i.e.,  $k = 2$  and  $\mathfrak{N} = \{f(x_1), f^{(j)}(z_2)\}$  where  $j \geq 1$  and

$z_2 = z_2(x_1, f(x_1))$ . If  $j \geq 2$  then  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) + (x-x_1)$  and  $p(\mathfrak{N}) = 1$ . Let  $j = 1$ . Then  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) + (x-x_1)(x-2z_2+x_1)$ . From this we get

$$\tilde{\alpha} - \alpha \cong (\alpha - x_1)(\alpha - y), \quad y = 2z_2 - x_1.$$

Since  $y = y(x_1, f(x_1))$  then  $\alpha - y$  can be at most of first order in  $(\alpha - x_1)$ . Hence  $p(\mathfrak{N}) \leq 2$  and  $p(\mathfrak{N}) = 2$  if, for instance,  $z_2 = x_1 + \beta f(x_1)$ , for any constant  $\beta \neq 0$ .

It is easy to verify that, in addition,  $p_2(m) = 2$  for any  $m$ .

For  $n = 3$ ,  $p_3(0) = 4$ . There are a number of information sets  $\mathfrak{N}$  for which  $p(\mathfrak{N}) = 4$ . A proof and discussion may be found in Meersman [75].

Unfortunately the proof technique used to establish the cases  $n = 2, 3$  cannot be used for general  $n$  since there are too many sub-cases to investigate.

We now wish to discuss some general properties of the  $n$ -evaluation problem.

Recall that  $E_n^k = (e_{ij})$  is the incidence matrix of the information  $\mathfrak{N}$  and let

$$(5.1) \quad M_r = \sum_{j=0}^r \sum_{i=1}^k e_{ij}$$

denote the total number of evaluations  $f, f', \dots, f^{(r)}$  at  $z_1, \dots, z_k$ ,  $r = 0, 1, \dots$ .

The incidence matrix  $E_n^k$  satisfies the Pólya conditions if

$$(5.2) \quad M_r \geq r+1 \quad \text{for } r = 0, 1, \dots, n-1.$$

(See Sharma [72].) If  $E_n^k$  satisfies the Pólya conditions then  $e_{ij} = 0$  for any  $i$  and  $j \geq n$ . This means we do not use

derivatives of order higher than  $n-1$ . Note that hermitian  $E_n^k$  satisfies the Pólya conditions. Furthermore all known information sets with maximal order of information have  $E_n^k$  which satisfy the Pólya conditions.

Let  $j' = j'(E_n^k)$  be a nonnegative integer such that

$$M_r \geq r+1 \text{ for } r = 0, 1, \dots, j' \text{ and } M_{j'+1} < j'+2.$$

Since  $j'+1 \leq M_{j'} \leq M_{j'+1} \leq j'+1$  then  $e_{i, j'+1} = 0$  which means that we do not use the  $(j'+1)$  derivative. We shall call such  $j' = j'(E_n^k)$  an index of  $E_n^k$ .  $E_n^k$  satisfies the Pólya conditions if and only if its index is equal to  $n-1$ .

We introduce the concept of the polynomial order of information  $\text{pol}(\mathfrak{N})$  defined by

$$(5.3) \quad \text{pol}(\mathfrak{N}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } B \text{ is empty} \\ \sup B & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where

$$B = \{q \geq 1: \forall f \in \mathfrak{F}, f(\alpha) = 0, \forall \tilde{f} \in \mathfrak{N} \text{ and } \tilde{f}-f \in \Pi_n,$$

$$\limsup_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \frac{|\alpha - \tilde{\alpha}|}{|x_1 - \alpha|^{q-\epsilon}} = 0, \forall \epsilon > 0\},$$

and  $\Pi_n$  denotes a class of polynomials of degree  $\leq n$ . Compare with the order of information where is not assumed that  $\tilde{f}-f \in \Pi_n$ , see (2.10). Thus  $p(\mathfrak{N}) \leq \text{pol}(\mathfrak{N})$ . Similarly let  $\text{pol}(n) = \sup_{\mathfrak{N}} p(\mathfrak{N})$ . This gives

$$(5.4) \quad p_n(0) \leq \text{pol}(n).$$

We show some properties of  $\text{pol}(n)$ . From Section 4 it follows that  $\text{pol}(n) \geq 2^{n-1}$  and  $\text{pol}(n) = 2^{n-1}$  for hermitian

information. Furthermore it is possible to show that  $\text{pol}(n) = 2^{n-1}$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3$  and that  $\text{pol}(n)$  is an increasing function of  $n$ .

Lemma 5.1

Let  $j'$  be the index of the incidence matrix  $E_n^k$  of  $\mathfrak{N}$ .  
Then

$$\text{pol}(\mathfrak{N}) \leq \text{pol}(j'+1).$$

Proof (Compare with the proof of the Schoenberg Lemma in Schoenberg [66] and Sharma [72], Lemma 1.)

Let  $E_{j'}^k$  denote the first  $(j'+1)$  columns of  $E_n^k$ . Assume  $f \in \Pi_{j'+1}$ . Then  $z_i = z_i(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) = z_i(x_1; \mathfrak{N}_1(x_1; f))$  where  $\mathfrak{N}_1$  is the information based on  $E_{j'}^k$ . Let  $h \in \Pi_{j'+1}$  and

$$(5.5) \quad h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0 \quad \text{for } (i, j) \in e_n^k \text{ and } j \leq j'.$$

The total number of homogeneous equations in (5.5) is equal to  $M_{j'} = j'+1$  and since we have  $j'+2$  unknowns then there exists a nonzero  $h$  satisfying (5.5). Furthermore  $h^{(j)}(x) \equiv 0$  for  $j \geq j'+2$  which means that  $h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0$  for all  $(i, j) \in e_n^k$ . Define  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) + h(x)$  we get

$$(5.6) \quad \tilde{\alpha} - \alpha = \frac{1}{g'(\alpha)} (1 + o(1))h(\alpha).$$

But  $h(\alpha)$  depends only on  $E_{j'}^k$ , and it can be at most of order  $\text{pol}(j'+1)$ . This proves that  $\text{pol}(\mathfrak{N}) \leq \text{pol}(j'+1)$ . ■

Since  $\text{pol}(n)$  is an increasing function of  $n$  we immediately have

Corollary 5.2

A necessary condition for  $\mathfrak{N}$  to have the maximal polynomial order  $\text{pol}(n)$  is that its incidence matrix  $E_n^k$  satisfies

the Pólya conditions. ■

We believe that  $\text{pol}(n) = 2^{n-1}$ . However to find even a crude upper bound on  $\text{pol}(n)$  seems to be hard. We give an upper bound on  $\text{pol}(n)$  under the following conjecture.

Conjecture 5.3

Let  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n$  be any  $n$ -point iterations. Then there exists a function  $f \in \mathfrak{F}$  such that

$$(5.7) \quad \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \left| \frac{\varphi_i(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) - \alpha}{e_1^{\text{pol}(n)+\epsilon}} \right| = +\infty, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \quad \forall i \leq n. \quad \blacksquare$$

Assume for simplicity that  $C_i = C_i(f, \varphi_i) = \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} \left| \frac{\varphi_i(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) - \alpha}{e_1^{\text{pol}(n)}} \right|$  exist for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . The conjecture 5.3 states that they are all different from zero for one function. Note that it holds for  $n = 1$ .

Lemma 5.4

If (5.7) holds then  $\text{pol}(n) < n!$  for  $n \geq 3$ .

Proof

Let  $E_n^k$  be the incidence matrix of  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Let  $0 \neq h \in \Pi_n$  and  $h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0$  for  $(i, j) \in e_n^k$ . Then

$$h(x; x_1) = a(x_1)(x-h_1)(x-h_2)\dots(x-h_j)$$

where  $1 \leq j \leq n$  and  $a(x_1)$  is chosen in order to ensure that  $h(x; x_1)$  tends to an analytic function as  $x_1$  tends to  $\alpha$ . Note that  $h_1 = x_1$  and  $h_i = h_i(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_k)$  depends on at most  $(n-1)$  evaluations. If  $\lim_{x_1 \rightarrow \alpha} h_i = \alpha$  then  $h_i$  can be treated as an iteration. From (5.7) we get

$$|h_i - \alpha| \geq c |e_1|^{\text{pol}(n-1)+1-\epsilon}, \quad c > 0,$$

for any  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since it holds for any  $\mathfrak{N}$  we have

$$\text{pol}(n) \leq (n-1) \text{pol}(n-1) + 1 < n \text{pol}(n-1) \leq n! \quad \blacksquare$$

The next part of this section deals with a restrictive class of  $n$ -point iterations. We use  $n$  evaluations per step and we assume that an iteration is exact for a function  $f \in \Pi_{n-1}$ . We shall say that  $\varphi \in \Phi_n$  if  $\varphi(x_1; \mathfrak{N}(x_1; f)) = \alpha$  whenever  $f \in \Pi_{n-1}$  and  $x_1$  is close to  $\alpha$ . Note that all iterations considered in Section 4 belong to  $\Phi_n$ .

Next we shall say that the problem is locally well-poised for  $f$  if for every  $h \in \Pi_{n-1}$  such that

$$h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad (i,j) \in e_n^k$$

it follows  $h \equiv 0$  for all  $x_1$  close to  $x$ .

Note that Birkhoff interpolation for  $E_n^k$  is well-poised if  $\forall (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0$  for  $(i,j) \in e_n^k$  and  $h \in \Pi_{n-1} \Rightarrow h \equiv 0$  (see Sharma [72]). Thus, if Birkhoff interpolation is well-poised then the problem is locally well-poised but not in general vice versa.

#### Lemma 5.5

If an iteration  $\varphi$  is exact for  $f \in \Pi_{n-1}$ ,  $\varphi \in \Phi_n$ , then

- (i)  $E_n^k$  satisfies the Polya conditions,
- (ii) the problem is locally well-poised for  $f \in \Pi_{n-1}$ ,
- (iii)  $p(\mathfrak{N}) \leq n(n+1)^{n-1}$ .

#### Proof

Suppose that the problem is not locally well-poised for  $f \in \Pi_{n-1}$ . Then there exists a nonzero  $h \in \Pi_{n-1}$  such that

$h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0$  for  $(i,j) \in e_n^k$ . Define  $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) + h(x)$ .  
 Since  $\tilde{f} \in \Pi_{n-1}$  and  $\tilde{f}(\alpha) \neq 0$  then

$$\alpha = \varphi(x_1, \mathfrak{N}(x_1, f)) = \varphi(x_1, \mathfrak{N}(x_1, \tilde{f})) \neq \tilde{\alpha}.$$

This contradicts that  $\varphi \in \Phi_n$ . Hence (ii) holds. Let  $j'$  be the index of  $E_n^k$ . If  $j' < n-1$  then there exists a nonzero  $h \in \Pi_{j'+1}$  such that  $h^{(j)}(z_i) = 0$  for all  $(i,j) \in e_n^k$ , see the proof of Lemma (5.1). This contradicts that the problem is locally well-posed. Thus, (i) holds.

To prove (iii) it suffices to note that if

$$E_n^k \leq \tilde{E}_{\tilde{n}}^k \quad \text{then} \quad p(E_n^k) \leq p(\tilde{E}_{\tilde{n}}^k)$$

for  $n \leq \tilde{n}$  where by  $E_n^k = (e_{ij}) \leq \tilde{E}_{\tilde{n}}^k = (\tilde{e}_{ij})$  we mean  $e_{ij} \leq \tilde{e}_{ij}$  for  $(i,j) \in e_n^k$ .

Define  $\tilde{E}_{\tilde{n}}^k$  as a hermitian matrix where  $\tilde{n} = kn$ ,

$$\tilde{e}_{ij} = 1 \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k \text{ and } j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1.$$

Of course  $E_n^k \leq \tilde{E}_{\tilde{n}}^k$  and from Theorem 4.1 we get

$$p(\tilde{E}_{\tilde{n}}^k) \leq n(n+1)^{n-1}$$

which proves (iii). ■

## 6. FINAL REMARKS

The problem of the maximal order of  $n$ -point iterations is connected with Birkhoff interpolation which has been open almost 70 years. The main difficulty is to estimate the difference between the zeros,  $\tilde{\alpha} - \alpha$ , of any two functions with the same information,  $\tilde{f} \equiv f$ . Note that  $\tilde{f}$  can belong to  $\Pi_{n-1}$  for

all if the problem is well-posed. However up to now we do not know when Birkhoff interpolation is well-posed. There are many reasons to believe that hermitian information (interpolation without gaps) is optimal. However there also exists nonhermitian information with order  $2^{n-1}$ .

For nonhermitian information  $\mathfrak{N}$  it is hard to find the order  $p(\mathfrak{N})$ . We know the order of such information only in a few cases. The first one is a Brent iteration based on  $\mathfrak{N} = \{f(z_1), f'(z_1), \dots, f^{(j)}(z_1), f^{(r)}(z_2), f^{(r)}(z_3), \dots, f^{(r)}(z_k)\}$  for suitable chosen  $z_i$  where  $0 < r \leq j+1$  (see Brent [75]). This information uses  $n = j+k$  evaluations and has the order  $p(\mathfrak{N}) = j + 2k - 1$ , see Meersman [75]. Note that this problem is well-posed. The second example is Abel-Goncarov information given by

$$\mathfrak{N} = \{f(z_1), f'(z_2), \dots, f^{(n-1)}(z_n)\},$$

see Sharma [72]. Recall that if  $z_i = z_1$  for  $i = 2, \dots, n$  then we get one-point information which has the order  $n$  (even in the multivariate and abstract cases). For Abel-Goncarov information it is possible to prove

$$n \leq p(\mathfrak{N}) \leq 2n$$

but we do not know whether this upper bound is sharp. Finally let us mention lacunary information given by

$$\mathfrak{N} = \{f(z_1), f''(z_1), f(z_2), f''(z_2), \dots, f(z_k), f''(z_k)\}$$

and  $n = 2k$ , see Sharma [72]. It is possible to verify that

$$\frac{1}{2} 2^{n/2} \leq p(\mathfrak{N}) \leq \frac{3}{4} 2^n$$

but the exact value of  $p(\mathfrak{N})$  is unknown.

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